

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1           1.    An alkaline storage battery comprising a positive  
2    electrode, a negative electrode comprising, as an active material,  
3    a hydrogen absorbing alloy containing manganese, a separator and an  
4    alkaline electrolyte, and containing a complex-forming agent which  
5    does not contain nitrogen and capable of forming a complex with  
6    manganese.

1           2.    The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1,  
2    wherein the complex-forming agent is contained in the alkaline  
3    electrolyte.

1           3.    The alkaline storage battery according to claim 1,  
2    wherein the complex-forming agent is selected from the group  
3    consisting of sodium lactate, lactic acid, thioglycolic acid and  
4    isocitric acid.

1           4.    The alkaline storage battery according to claim 2,  
2    wherein the complex-forming agent is selected from the group  
3    consisting of sodium lactate, lactic acid, thioglycolic acid and  
4    isocitric acid.

1           5.    The alkaline storage battery according to claim 3,

2 wherein the complex-forming agent is sodium lactate.

1 6. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 4,  
2 wherein the complex-forming agent is sodium lactate.

1 7. The alkaline storage battery according to claim 6,  
2 wherein a concentration of sodium lactate in the alkaline  
3 electrolyte is in a range of 10 ~ 200 mg/l.